

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 01721 112305Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 HA-05 SY-05 CIAE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICAE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /062 W
-----089249 112333Z /66

O R 112235Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7640
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, ES, ASEC
SUBJECT: BPR OCCUPIES VENEZUELAN AND PANAMANIAN EMBASSIES AND
NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

1. SHORTLY BEFORE NOON APRIL 11 DECLARATION FROM POPULAR
REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR) WAS BROADCAST STATING THEIR INTENTION TO
OCCUPY MEXICAN, VENEZUELAN, COSTA RICAN, PANAMANIAN AND SWISS
EMBASSIES IN SAN SALVADOR, IN ADDITION TO NATIONAL
CATHEDRAL. SPOKESMAN FOR BPR STATED THAT REASON FOR THESE ACTIONS
WAS TO DRAW WORLDWIDE ATTENTION TO GOES AND ORDEN ACTIVITIES
IN RECENTLY TROUBLED RURAL AREAS (SEE SAN SALVADOR 1587 AND
SAN SALVADOR 1494)

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2. BPR IN FACT OCCUPIED NATIONAL CATHEDRAL WITH APPROXIMATELY
300 PEOPLE, VENEZUELAN EMBASSY WITH 20 PEOPLE, AND PANAMANIAN
EMBASSY WITH BETWEEN 20 AND 30 PEOPLE. OTHER EMBASSIES ORIG-
INALLY TRAGETED APPARENTLY NOT OCCUPIED.

3. BPR STATED THAT THESE WERE PEACEFUL OCCUPATIONS BUT LISTED
NUMBER OF DEMANDS THAT THEY WISH CARRIED OUT BY GOES BEFORE

WITHDRAWAL. INCLUDED AMONG THE DEMANDS WERE:(1) REMOVAL OF GOES SECURITY FORCES AND ORDEN ACTIVITIES FROM SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN AND COJUTEPEQUE AREAS; (2) BPR MEMBERS, INCLUDING THEIR AFFILIATES FECCAS AND UTC, BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN THE AREAS MENTIONED ABOVE; AND (3) THAT ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS BE RELEASED.

4. AS OF 3:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, GOES OFFICIALS REPORT THAT BOTH PANAMANIAN AND VENEZUELAN EMBASSIES ARE STILL OCCUPIED BUT THEY HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION ON EITHER HOSTAGES OR POSSIBLE CASUALTIES. SAME SOURCES STATE THAT BPR GROUP IN CATHEDRAL BEGINNING TO DEPART PEACEFULLY AND ARE NOT BEING STOPPED BY SECURITY FORCES. NO INDICATION THAT SECURITY FORCES INTEND TO TRY TO REMOVE PERSONS OCCUPYING TWO EMBASSIES AT PRESENT TIME. SECURITY FORCES ARE ON STATE OF ALERT.

5. COMMENT. INFORMATION ON LATEST BPR ACTIVITY SPOTTY AND INCONCLUSIVE THUS FAR. OCCUPATION OF VENEZUELAN AND PANAMANIAN EMBASSIES APPARENTLY ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT RESISTENCE. EMBASSY TAKING NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS SINCE BPR HAS PUBLICLY STATED U.S. SUPPORT OF ROMERO GOVERNMENT AT LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RURAL PROBLEMS.
DEVINE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EMBASSIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, CIVIL DISORDERS, RURAL AREAS
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Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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